(c) The 11th Plan Document, approved by National Development Council, has projected that 58 million job opportunities are likely to be created during the 11th Plan period. The additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear, and textiles, and service sectors such as tourism and construction.

Medical colleges by ESI Corporation

2128. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESI Corporation has decided to start medical colleges;

(b) if so, the details of the stipulated requirements for starting the medical colleges;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala requested sanction of a medical college under ESIC at Paripally in Kollam District;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The ESI Corporation is exploring the feasibility of starting Medical Colleges, Nursing Colleges and Para-Medical Training Schools under ESI Medical Scheme. A consultant has been appointed on 29.02.2008 for submitting the feasibility report on the proposal.

(c) and (d) A letter has also been received from Government of Kerala requesting for taking necessary steps for starting a medical college at ESI Hospital, Paripally in Kollam District.

(e) A Sub-Cmmittee constituted by the ESIC had recommended amending the ESI Act, 1948 for facilitating imparting of medical and para-medical education with a view to improving quality of services provided under the ESI Scheme. The ESIC has approved the recommendation in its meeting held on 22.02.2008. Further action can be taken only after the proposed amendment to the ESI Act is carried out and on the basis of feasibility report.

Measures to check increasing unemployment

2129. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the measures taken to check increasing unemployment have failed to achieve their target;

(b) if so, whether Government has noticed any decline in employment generation during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to formulate new job oriented schemes to create more employment opportunities in the Eleventh Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys on employment and unemployment, unemployment rate on usual status basis has marginally increased from 2.2% to 2.3% during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. This was due to the fact that the pace of growth in labour force at 2.97% per annum exceeded the rate of growth of work force at 2.95% per annum. The increase in labour force is mainly attributed to the fact that working age population grew faster than total population and labour force participation rate increased particularly, among women during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. However, overall employment opportunities on usual status basis during the same period have increased from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459.10 in 2004-05.

(d) and (e) Government has been implementing various employment generation schemes and poverty alleviation programmes of which, some of the important ones are Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) etc. for generating gainful employment opportunities in the country.

Fall in employment opportunity in the agriculture sector

†2130. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge fall in the employment opportunities has been noticed in agriculture sector between 1993-94 to 2004-05;

(b) if so, the number of labourers who could not get employment during this period of almost a decade; and

(c) the reasons for the fall in employment opportunities in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the three most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys on employment and unemployment, employment opportunities on usual status basis have been estimated at 242.46 in 1993-94, 237.56 million in 1999-2000 and 268.57 million in 2004-05 in agriculture sector. Average annual rate of growth of employment in agriculture sector has accelerated to 2.48 percent in 2004-05 over 1999-2000 as compared to a negative growth rate of 0.34 percent in 1999-2000 over 1993-94.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.